

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02758 200839Z

10

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 200756Z JUL 75N

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4029

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2758

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJ: ASAD REGRETS HE CANNOT MEET WITH FORD JULY 26.

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2757; B. STATE 170470

1. AT 1030 LOCAL JULY 20 PRESIDENCY FURNISHED US FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM ASAD TO PRESIDENT FORD.

2. QTE PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASAD SENDS HIS WARM REGARDS
TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AND THANKS HIM FOR HIS MESSAGE
CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSED MEETING IN EUROPE.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD REGRETS THAT THE PROPOSED DATE FOR THE
MEETING WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AND BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT
FORD WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS DUE ONLY TO THE SHORTNESS
OF THE TIME LEFT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE REMAINING PERIOD
IS FILLED WITH PREVIOUSLY FIXED COMMITMENTS. AT THE SAME
TIME, PRESIDENT AL-ASAD APPRECIATES THE CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH PREVENTED EARLIER CONTACTS DESIGNED TO ARRANGE THE
MEETING. PRESIDENT AL-ASAD SHARES PRESIDENT FORD'S DESIRE
TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THEM AT A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY
IN THE FUTURE.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD WISHES PRESIDENT FORD A SUCCESSFUL
TRIP. UNQTE.

MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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